

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 7 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 7 (currently amended): A self-recovering current-limiting device including a liquid metal, the device comprising:

a first and a second electrode for connection to an electric circuit to be protected, each of the first and second electrodes being made of solid metal, being rotationally symmetrical with respect to a longitudinal axis, and defining a respective hollow ~~spaces therein~~ space in the respective electrode;

a plurality of pressure-resistant insulating bodies; and

a plurality of insulating intermediate walls interleaved with and supported by the plurality of pressure-resistant insulating bodies and defining a plurality of connecting channels disposed in a circular pattern, the plurality of pressure-resistant insulating bodies and the insulating intermediate walls together defining a plurality of compression spaces disposed between the first and second electrodes, the plurality of compression spaces being interconnected by the plurality of connecting channels and being at least partially filled with the liquid metal;

wherein the respective hollow spaces are each connected to an adjacent respective one of the plurality of compression spaces and wherein a respective volume of each of the hollow spaces and an amount of the liquid metal in the current-limiting device are selected so that an upper one of the first and second electrodes is sufficiently wetted with the liquid metal when the current-limiting device is in a position deviating substantially from a position when the longitudinal axis is horizontal.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 7 wherein each of the hollow spaces have a pot-like shape tapering in a conical manner into an opening to the adjacent respective one of the plurality of compression spaces.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 7 wherein each of the hollow spaces has a double pot-like shape and includes a respective cylindrical inner chamber and a respective cylindrical outer chamber, each of the first and second electrodes further defining a respective plurality of openings arranged in a circular pattern about the longitudinal axis for connecting the respective cylindrical outer chamber to the respective cylindrical inner chamber, each of the respective cylindrical inner chamber being connected to the adjacent respective one of the plurality of compression spaces.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 9 wherein each of the first and second electrodes includes a respective flat connecting lead dividing the respective outer chamber into two respective partial spaces, each respective flat connecting lead defining a respective opening for connecting the two respective partial spaces.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 7 wherein respective ones of the plurality of connecting channels of adjacent intermediate walls are angularly staggered with respect to one another.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 7 wherein the liquid metal includes a GaINSn alloy.